

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

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Legislative Document

No. 1184

H.P. 865

House of Representatives, March 7, 2007

**Resolve, To Establish a Commission To Study the Possibility of  
Implementing the Proposed Healthy Americans Act**

(EMERGENCY)

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Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative PRIEST of Brunswick.

1       **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not  
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3       **Whereas,** the Commission to Study the Possibility of Implementing the Healthy  
4 Americans Act is established in this resolve to conduct a study and recommend  
5 legislation to be submitted to the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature; and

6       **Whereas,** the study must be initiated before the 90-day period expires in order that  
7 the study may be completed and a report prepared in time for submission to the Second  
8 Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature; and

9       **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within  
10 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as  
11 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,  
12 therefore, be it

13       **Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Commission to Study the  
14 Possibility of Implementing the Healthy Americans Act, referred to in this resolve as "the  
15 commission," is established; and be it further

16       **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That the commission consists of  
17 8 members appointed as follows:

18           1. Two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate, each of  
19 whom serves on the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services;

20           2. Two members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the  
21 House of Representatives, each of whom serves on the Joint Standing Committee on  
22 Health and Human Services;

23           3. One representative of a health insurance organization, appointed by the Governor;

24           4. One representative of a business organization, appointed by the Governor;

25           5. One representative of a labor organization, appointed by the Governor;

26           6. One representative of the Maine Municipal Association, appointed by the  
27 Governor; and be it further

28       **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first-named Senate member is the Senate  
29 chair of the commission and the first-named House of Representatives member is the  
30 House chair of the commission; and be it further

31       **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of commission. Resolved:** That all  
32 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this  
33 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative  
34 Council once all appointments have been completed. Within 15 days after appointment  
35 of all members, the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission,

1 which may be no later than 60 days following the effective date of this resolve; and be it  
2 further

3 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall gather information and  
4 request necessary data from public and private entities in order to thoroughly review the  
5 Healthy Americans Act proposed by Senator Ron Wyden of Oregon and to study the  
6 possibility of this act's being enacted in this State. This proposed act establishes a  
7 centrally financed system of private health insurance for all those people not covered by  
8 Medicare System; and be it further

9 **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the Legislative Council shall provide  
10 necessary staffing services to the commission; and be it further

11 **Sec. 7. Compensation. Resolved:** That the legislative members of the  
12 commission are entitled to receive the legislative per diem, as defined in the Maine  
13 Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2, and reimbursement for travel and other necessary  
14 expenses related to their attendance at authorized meetings of the commission. Public  
15 members not otherwise compensated by their employers or other entities that they  
16 represent are entitled to receive reimbursement of necessary expenses and, upon a  
17 demonstration of financial hardship, a per diem equal to the legislative per diem for their  
18 attendance at authorized meetings of the commission; and be it further

19 **Sec. 8. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than January 15, 2008, the commission  
20 shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested  
21 legislation, for presentation to the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature. The  
22 commission is authorized to introduce legislation related to its report to the Second  
23 Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature at the time of submission of its report; and be it  
24 further

25 **Sec. 9. Extension. Resolved:** That, if the commission requires a limited  
26 extension of time to complete its study and make its report, it may apply to the  
27 Legislative Council, which may grant an extension; and be it further

28 **Sec. 10. Commission budget. Resolved:** That the chairs of the commission,  
29 with assistance from the commission's staff, shall administer the commission's budget.  
30 Within 10 days after its first meeting, the commission shall present a work plan and  
31 proposed budget to the Legislative Council for its approval. The commission may not  
32 incur expenses that would result in the commission's exceeding its approved budget.  
33 Upon request from the commission, the Executive Director of the Legislative Council  
34 shall promptly provide the commission chairs and staff with a status report on the  
35 commission budget, expenditures incurred and paid and available funds.

36 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this  
37 legislation takes effect when approved.

1

## SUMMARY

2       This resolve establishes the Commission to Study the Possibility of Implementing the  
3 Healthy Americans Act proposed by Senator Ron Wyden of Oregon, which would  
4 establish a centrally financed system of private health insurance for those not covered by  
5 Medicare.